

La Luz de Cristo para Perú

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On the outside looking in

Last October, Billy and I had the opportunity to work in ministry in San Carlos, Costa Rica with a group of missionaries on a weekend expedition. Some of us worked with a children's ministry, some of us with a youth program, some of us with door-to-door evangelism, and some of us did a project at an orphanage / boy's home. While at the boy's home, we encountered a young boy who was obviously very different from the others. His name was Geronimo. At first, we believed him to be suffering the effects of child abuse in his past. He didn't have very good social skills, he didn't speak to anyone, and he was very obviously uncomfortable even being in the same room with the others. However, he would stand on the outside of the group and observe... even to the point of standing outside of a window and watching the group through the glass. We found this to be very curious! We were told that this is "normal" for him.

Eventually, Geronimo ventured into the room and began to move closer and closer to the group. He chose to sit on the couch next to Billy, but not too close at first. It was evident that there were trust issues at stake here, so Billy was very careful to not cross any perceived barriers between himself and Geronimo. By the end of the day, he was comfortable enough with Billy that they were sitting close enough to touch, to laugh, and to interact in Geronimo's very primitive ways. But Billy couldn't get past the thought, "How curious that this child is most comfortable on the outside looking in!!"

The answer was astounding... Geronimo was not removed from his parents because of any abuse or neglect. Geronimo did not come to the boy's home because of a tragedy or in any of the normal manners that children are received here. Geronimo's story is straight out of Hollywood... Geronimo was found 3 years ago in the jungle.



Geronimo - March 2007

Geronimo did not know his name. He did not know where he was from or who his family was. He was living on his own in the jungles of Cost Rica. No one is certain how long he was there. He now lives in the boy's home and is working to learn what it means to live in a social situation... how to behave, how to respond to others, how to write and speak and dress himself, etc. Imagine the stress and the pressure in his life! He is acutely aware that he doesn't "fit". He knows that he is "different". Sometimes, it is safer and easier to be on the outside looking in.

In some ways, I can identify with Geronimo. I distinctly remember a time when it seemed to me that I was definitely on the outside looking in. We were in



Roberto (one of our La Carpio boys) plays guitar with Geronimo.

Mexico volunteering with a mission organization for two weeks. I remember thinking, "All of these people know so much more than I do about the Bible. All of these people seem to be so much farther in their relationship with God than I am... I can't even seem to get past 'Dear God' in my prayers! Maybe I came to Christianity too late. I'll never fit in with this crowd. I don't even know how to act or how to speak when I am with them." For me, fear was keeping me on the outside looking in. Fear of my own ignorance, fear of being "found out", fear of not fitting in... How could I ever overcome my deficiencies and run with this crowd. I wanted to get on the bus, but I had no idea how to accomplish this task. I thank God for the people who recognized my fears and my needs and came along side me to disciple me and teach me. If it hadn't been for those missionaries in Mexico, I would not be a missionary today. Because they touched my life, I am now giving my life to touch thousands of others in Latin America. I am now the missionary who spends my time trying to find the people who are on the outside looking in, trying to share Christ's love by just being there and being understanding when there is fear - when it is safer to watch from outside.

In March, we visited Geronimo again. He has made so many strides since we first met him! He still spends a great amount of time observing and trying to warm up to people, but he is making gains. He spent 2 hours with Billy this time, working on a craft together. He can't write his name and he can't use scissors, and he ate part of his glue stick... but he had a great time and he was so proud of his book that he made. With every step he completed in his craft, he would hold up his book and show everyone with a giant smile. It is such a privilege to be a small part of Geronimo's awakening. It is an honor to be a part of his life and watch him move from outside to in.

Please pray that other missionaries come alongside the boy's home in San Carlos / Ciudad Quesada, Costa Rica and continue to foster these boys, especially Geronimo. We know that God has a special place in His heart for these kids, and He has a special place in this world for Geronimo.

The Adventures of Missionary Man



In the wee hours of the night (2 a.m. to be exact), I'm laying wide awake in my bed, paralyzed with fear... something is making a skritch, skritch, skritch sound and running from one side of my bedroom to the other. I'm lying as still and as quiet as possible. I'm thinking, "Maybe it will go away. Do I really want it to go away? It might go to Sarah's room if it leaves my room." And I'm remembering the stories from class today... stories about rats. First, Matt said that he had a rat run across his foot while watching TV last night. That got my Tica friend, Dixi, involved and she told us a story of when she fell asleep on the beach and woke up with a rat on her face licking her lips (she fell asleep eating cake... I'm thinking that maybe there was something stronger than cake involved-just a guess). Then Matt told us about the time their family friends found a really ugly, scruffy puppy on the beach and took it home, only to have it kill their cats, get wounded in the process, which caused an emergency vet visit, at which they were told that this was not a really ugly, scruffy dog... it was a giant ship rat! (Can this really be true???)

So anyway, I worked my "lie really still and quiet plan" for about 15 minutes, listening to the skritch, skitching and thinking about rats. Then I realized that Billy was awake, too. He asked, "Why are you awake?". To which I answered, "I think there is a rat in our room." He said, "I know. I've been listening to it, too." So we lay there for a few more minutes. Then mild mannered Clark Kent (I mean, Billy) crawled to the end of the bed and said, "Get ready to turn on the lights. NOW!!!" I flipped on the lights, and much to my surprise, Missionary Man had jumped out of bed, attacked a pair of jeans on my floor, grabbed a near-by flip flop, and was viciously attacking the skritch, skritch sound. He then threw his hands up into the air in victory (hitting our 7 foot ceiling in the process) and proclaimed the deed "done". I had been saved from the evil that lurked in my bedroom by my hero, my knight in plaid pajama pants and Monty Python t-shirt. Returning to his mild mannered self, Missionary Man crawled back into bed, donned his earbuds and fell asleep listening to a Dallas Willard podcast. My hero!

Stay tuned for more exciting episodes with Missionary Man... By the way – the skritch, skritch, skritch sound was actually a nuclear-sized cockroach. I have no doubt that it could have killed us all if given the chance... you never know.

Ministering in La Carpio and San Carlos...

This month in La Carpio ...

During Semana Santa (Easter Week) we took 32 children from La Carpio to the Museo de Los Niños in San Jose. This is a top-notch children's museum that rivals or beats EVERY children's museum that we have visited in the USA. This was an opportunity that these children would never have had... their poverty and family situations make this type of experience impossible for them. We rented a school bus for the day and piled 16 boys and 16 girls on board, along with 10 adult missionaries as chaperones, and 60+ peanut butter and jelly sack lunches—Off we went!!! It was so much fun and the kids were fabulous! Thank you so much for your support and for making this day possible! As former science teachers, this was a dream come true for Billy and I, too. Giving the gift of educational experiences to kids on our mission field was priceless... thank you so much!

Also this month, Billy and I lead a group of missionaries and their families on a mission trip back to the San Carlos area. We worked with approximately 75+ children and 50+ youth during the weekend trip. We were also able to take 5 La Carpio children along... the 5 boys were making a return trip to visit and minister to their friends at the boy's home/orphanage (they took a mission trip to this area in January). We were able to have all of the boys "sponsored" and fund their mission. Thank you for making that possible, as well!



Left: La Carpio girls being interviewed in the Communications exhibit at the children's museum.

Above: Jim Street and Billy knead 88 batches of playdough for a lesson on God's Creation.

Top Right: La Carpio boys learn about the Solar System at the children's museum.

Bottom Right: Ryan plays games in La Carpio.

Contact information for The Drums

You can email us at: Billy@drumsforchrist.org or Laurie@drumsforchrist.org

We have a USA phone number! You can call us at 979-985-5268.

Please check the blog each week for updates at www.drumsforchrist.blogspot.com

To see the newsletter in color, get the pdf edition online. Go to the website and click "Newsletters" to download the newsletter in color! www.drumsforchrist.org

To donate to our ministry account, please mail in the form at the right, or visit The Mission Society website and donate on-line to our personal ministry support account #5/321. <http://www.themissionsociety.org/people/drum>

DEAR BILLY AND LAURIE,

I will pray for you. Please send me your prayer letter.

Update me by email: _____

As God provides, I plan to partner with you by giving \$ _____ per month / quarter / year for _____ years.
(circle one)

I would like to donate a one-time gift of \$ _____.


Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Home Church _____

TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS MAY BE SENT TO:
 The Mission Society
 PO Box 922637
 Norcross, GA 30010-2637 USA
DESIGNATE GIFTS: "DRUM SUPPORT 5/321"




"If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?"

-- David Livingstone

Prayers & Praises

Praises:

- ◆ It appears that Billy's father's cancer has shrunk by 75%!
- ◆ We will graduate from the language institute on April 25th - Woo Hoo!!!! Praise Him for allowing us to have this time to train and learn the language of our new culture. Praise the Lord for giving us the ability to learn and grow in our walk with Him as we worked to minister in Spanish in Costa Rica.
- ◆ Miles and two of Ryan's friends were able to visit us during their Spring Break from school. It was great to have the whole family together again for awhile. Thank God for safe travels and fun times.
- ◆ We were able to entertain a sweet friend, Gabi, as she was in Costa Rica acting as a translator on a mission trip for her college church group. Gabi is "missionary kid-family" to us as we served with her family in Mexico for many years!

Prayers:

- ◆ Pray for the children of the La Carpio area of San Jose as

we prepare to leave Costa Rica and say goodbye to this ministry. Pray that other missionaries take up the torch and run the race for these precious children.

- ◆ Please pray for our good friend, Shari. We just received news that her simple outpatient surgery became a cancer diagnosis and she is now in the process of making decisions and dealing with health issues that she never dreamed of having to deal with. We want to be with her in this time of need... please pray for peace for her, strength for her family, and wisdom for her doctors.
- ◆ Pray for Billy's father and his battle with cancer. Pray for strength a persevering attitude as he continues with his treatments.
- ◆ Pray for the planning process and the transitions that are already taking place for our move to Peru in June. Pray that our visas will be ready and we receive them before we leave Costa Rica!
- ◆ We are praying for you! Thank you for standing alongside us in this journey to serve Him. Please keep us posted regarding your lives... we want to pray for you.



Billy hands out cookies and playdough to children in San Carlos after they finish the lesson and craft on the days of Creation (Genesis 1: 1-31).

Serving Christ in Perú

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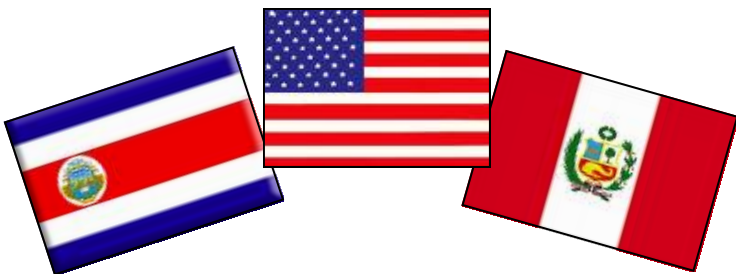
Visit us at

www.drumsforchrist.org

YOU'RE INVITED!!!

The Drum's will be returning to the USA in May for a short time. They will use this time to repack and reorganize their belongings before making the permanent move to Peru, take care of paperwork and business issues, return Ryan to Texas A&M at Kingsville, and most importantly - VISIT WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS!

This is your chance to visit with Billy and Laurie and hear them speak about their year in Central America and their ministry to the children of La Carpio, plus hear about the future ministry in Peru. Please plan to attend one of the following speaking engagements and receptions and visit with The Drums!



Where: Christ United Methodist Church—College Station, Texas

Date: May 18th

Times: speaking at the 8:15 a.m. service and 11:00 a.m. services, or at 9:30 a.m. for a coffee and forum during the Sunday School hour. Not exclusively for CUMC members... all are invited to attend and share this time with The Drums!

Where: First United Methodist Church—Navasota, Texas

Date: May 18th

Times: Navasota community dessert reception at 3:00 p.m. The Drums will share stories and photos from Central America. All are invited!!!